MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- An undeclared cease-fire took effect late on 4 August after 20 hours of continuous Israeli bombardment of west Beirut from land, sea and air, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, sporadic firing continued early on 5 August though the situation was sufficiently calm to permit citizens to emerge from their shelters and inspect the damage, Beirut radio reported. More than 300 people were killed or wounded in the fighting, the radio said, and four hotels and nine hospitals were hit.

Israeli forces captured the Al-Awza'i refugee camp and also encircled the nearby camp at Burj al-Barajinah, according to reports and IDF statements carried by Jerusalem and IDF radios. The Israeli reports also said the IDF had taken over a 600 by 60 meter strip in the Museum area near the east-west Beirut contact line. The IDF spokesman disclosed that 18 Israeli soldiers were killed and 64 were wounded in the fighting, according to the radio. Another eight Israelis were injured when their vehicle was ambushed near Al-Kahhalah, east of Beirut, ITIM reported.

Confirming the Israeli advance in the southern suburbs, Voice of Lebanon said the IDF was near the Kuwaiti Embassy, and Beirut radio said the Israelis were approaching the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. However, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces spokesman claimed that the Israeli assault was a failure and that the IDF lost 21 tanks and 14 personnel carriers and sustained more than 100 casualties, thus confirming the ferocity of the joint forces' resistance. The Israeli attack was an attempt to preclude a political solution, he said. While the Voice of Palestine denied reports -- many of them by the Voice of Lebanon -- that the Palestinians had shelled east Beirut, the radio earlier told people in the eastern sector that the joint forces should not be blamed for shelling areas in which the Israelis are based.

In the Al-Biqa' Valley, Israeli forces fired back at "terrorists" who had violated the cease-fire by shelling an IDF position northeast of Al-Qir'awn Lake, IDF radio reported early on 5 August.

Citing WAFA, Damascus radio reported that Palestinian guerrillas inside "occupied Palestine" shelled an Israeli settlement and some parked tanks on the night of 3 August.

Israeli Position -- If the "terrorists" do not leave Lebanon, "we will be forced to solve the problem, and no one should preach to us about this," Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Begin also said the fighting in Beirut will soon end and will be followed by a prolonged peace, according to IDF radio.

Reporting on Israeli-U.S. differences over Lebanon, IDF radio said that although President Ronald Reagan's latest message to Begin was "extremely unpleasant," a senior Israeli official considered that it should not change Israel's positions or objectives. Begin will reply to Reagan that the deterioration of the Beirut situation is not Israel's fault, but is a result of the "fact" that the "terrorists" have refused to leave and have been "leading envoy Philip Habib by the nose," Jerusalem radio said. Noting that the Cabinet will hold a special session on 5 August, Jerusalem television said Israel wants the United States to speed up the political solution that will lead to the PLO's departure from Beirut. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he was returning to Israel with a feeling that there are "problems" in Israeli-U.S. relations, according to IDF radio.

PLO Charges -- A Voice of Palestine radio commentary asserted that there was nothing new in the latest U.S. plan for ending the Beirut fighting. The commentary said the United States encouraged the Israeli "aggression" and aimed at eliminating the Palestinian

problem and giving the Lebanese Presidency to Lebanese front military commander Bashir al-Jumayyil. It went on to say the United States ignores Arab and international efforts to settle the Lebanon war and blocks all efforts other than its own. The commentary said U.S. anger over Israeli actions was "fabricated." In a related report, the radio said the United States is "coldly and recklessly" dealing with the issue and is giving Israel the time it needs to complete its "massacre."

'Arafat Message -- In a message to the joint forces carried by the Voice of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that the Arab nations are with the Palestinian fighters as they defend the nation's "honor, pride and prestige." He said they are fighting with simple arms against a sophisticated U.S.-Israeli force and that martyrdom is the key to victory. In a message to a Muslim World League meeting in Saudi Arabia reported by SPA, 'Arafat appealed to Arab and Islamic nations to take a strong stand in support of the Palestinian fighters, who he said would not kneel before the invading force.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

The Egyptian Government has "bypassed" the clause in the Camp David accords dealing with the Palestinian autonomy talks, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman told a Saudi magazine cited by KUNA. The spokesman added that Egypt is thinking about giving the Palestinians more "guarantees."

Reacting to this statement and the remarks the Egyptian foreign minister made to LE MONDE regarding maintaining normal relations with Israel, Jerusalem sources cited by HA'ARETZ said that if Egypt appeared to abandon the Camp David accords, Israel might annex Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, IDF radio reported that the Egyptian Government has delayed the return of its ambassador to Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

After the leaders of the PDRY and YAR visited Saudi Arabia and Syria to discuss Arab solidarity in the current situation and the holding of an Arab summit, it was agreed to send envoys to various Arab states to plan the summit, the YAR information minister said in an interview in Amman with an Amman television correspondent. He added that the summit will be held next week.

Commenting on the Yemeni presidents' meeting with Saudi King Fahd, a JANA political editor warned that the Saudi role is "merely cosmetic" and its efforts for Arab unity are doomed to failure, JANA reported. The JANA editor accused the Saudis of strong "suspicious links" with the Lebanese Phalangist Party and asserted that the Saudis supplied it with weapons.

Iran-Iraq War

After a meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Ramadan offensive was a warning that if Iraq does not "come to its senses," Iran will implement the "rest of its war plans," IRNA reported. He said the accusation that Iran threatened the Gulf states is ineffective propaganda. He added that it sent delegations to these states to assure them that Iran is no cause for their concern.

Regarding the upcoming Baghdad nonaligned summit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the reputation of the nonaligned will be harmed if the summit convenes in Baghdad. He said the 1 August car bomb attack in Baghdad carried out by the Iraqi Mujahidin Movement was "very appropriate." In an interview with IRNA, an official in the movement said the attack showed that Baghdad is an unsafe place for the nonaligned summit, and he threatened the lives of summit participants.

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VOLUNTEERS ENLISTING IN HERAT PROVINCE

LD042246 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Hundreds of aware and patriotic people of Herat Province welcomed the announcement by the DRA Council of Ministers and yesterday came voluntarily to the military commissariat of that province to enlist.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Herat city that groups of citizens of Herat and the people of its suburbs, with revolutionary and patriotic spirit, enlisted at the commissariat to defend the sacred land and the April Revolution, and displayed with courage their full readiness to eliminate the rebel bands and restore security in the country.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that aware people are still coming to the Herat military commissariat to enlist in the armed forces.

AFP: REBELS REGAIN GROUND AROUND PAGHMAN

BK040247 Hong Kong AFP in English 0221 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 3 (AFP) -- Afghan rebels have regained some of the land they lost during a recent Soviet and Afghan Government offensive north of Kabul, Western diplomats reported here today.

The rebel successes came around the town of Paghman, 15 kms (10 miles) north of Kabul, and in the long-disputed Panjsher Valley, the sources said. The center of Paghman is still held by government forces, but the rebels have retaken five major forward posts around the town, two of them last week, the diplomats said.

In the Panjsher Valley, the rebels have regained control of all but two positions. The Afghan Army now holds only two positions, Roka and Anawa in the southwestern entrance to the valley, according to rebel sources.

Reports from Kabul said the government forces lost six tanks during a counterattack on July 25, three days after an undetermined number of troops were captured and released after their weapons were confiscated, the sources said.

Rebel sources in Kabul also claimed recent victories in the Jalalabad region near the Pakistani border, in Qandahar, southwestern Afghanistan, and Charikar, the capital of Parvan Province north of Kabul.

In Kabul itself, rebel command teams reportedly have carried out several attacks, killing a number of officials.

Meanwhile, Afghan Army officials have been searching for new recruits. After a new enlistment decree made military service compulsory for all men up to the age of 35, army patrols began rounding up all men of military age. In one reported incident, a youth fleeing a military patrol was killed when soldiers opened fire, the diplomats said.

It was reported also that the communist party held a one-day, unannounced plenum late last month. During the session, President Babrak Karmal and six members of the Central Committee insisted there was a need to gain the confidence of the rural population, according to various sources.

Sparse official reports on the plenum spawned a number of rumors concerning possible reshuffles in the top ranks of the Afghan Government. But diplomats gave credence to only two of those. They said the ranking Defense Ministry political official, Major General Gol Aqa, may have been placed under house arrest for having refused to go to the Soviet Union for a training mission.

In addition, they said the deputy chief of the secret police, Jamil Nooristani, apparently was dismissed for having used his influence to free a prisoner.

GANDHI ENDS U.S. VISIT, DEPARTS FOR TOKYO

BK050337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 82

[Excerpts] At a colorful ceremony in Honolulu, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi presented the elephant Mari to the children of Hawaii.

The ceremony yesterday was held at the Honolulu zoo, reputed to be one of the best in the world. A million visitors come every year here to see its 1,600 animals.

Soon after the presentation ceremony, the prime minister left for Tokyo at the end of her U.S. visit.

COMMENTATOR ASSESSES RESULTS OF GANDHI VISIT

BK041408 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Commentary by All-India radio correspondent Manohar Chakra on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the United States]

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has now completed her main engagements in the United States and is leaving for Tokyo later today. She has had talks with President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, a very wide cross-section of congressmen, other Americans who count politically, intellectuals and people in the commercial world. She also met members of the Indian community. Above all she met any number of journalists, which was very important. This is, therefore, perhaps an appropriate stage at which to have a look at what the visit has achieved. While making an assessment one must not lose sight of what she had set out to achieve. Only against this background a realistic assessment of her tour can be made.

Mrs Gandhi had herself repeatedly said that she did not have any specific objective or shopping list except the desire to try and see if there could be a better understanding between India and the United States. There is no doubt that she succeeded in this objective.

Relations between India and the U.S. had congealed to a pattern where nothing surprised either of them. Washington was convinced that India is up to no good. Whatever India did was suspect and there was no attempt to understand its motivation. A big dent had almost certainly been made in that position. The frosty attitude that Washington had been having toward New Delhi these past few years is almost certainly going to thaw. While saying so, one must, however, caution against undue euphoria, because it is not as if Washington has seen a new light and will henceforth appreciate, or at least understand, all that India does. They might see India in a new light as a result of Mrs Gandhi's efforts to tell the American leaders about New Delhi's motivation in following the policies it does -- policies in its foreign relations and policies in its economic sphere domestically.

But while explaining their rationale to her American host, Mrs Gandhi also made it clear that there is no change of direction. If we have brought about a certain degree of liberalization in our economic policy, it is only because India is now at a stage where doing so will accelerate its development, and not for any other reason.

In substantive terms it can be straightaway said that Mrs Gandhi has established a closer rapport at a personal level with President Reagan. It is quite on record that Washington might at least make an attempt to have another look at India's role and reassess the importance it has in the region that surrounds it.

The iciness of formal relationship with plenty of protocols and little understanding will in all likelihood melt as a result of the understanding generated by the visit. But, as I said, one has to wait till the clinking of glasses at formal toast stops, things settle down and time comes to take the next step.

Economic affairs claimed a great deal of the time at the prime minister's discussions at all levels. India's success in containing inflation was applauded. The U.S. side, including Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, was very forthcoming about India's performance.

To sum up, Mrs Gandhi came to the United States with a limited objective of improving Washington's understanding of India and improving the general atmosphere of their relationship. She removed cobwebs in the American minds about New Delhi's friendship with Moscow, reassured them that despite passing differences India holds the United States in high esteem for its tradition of freedom and justice. The understanding on the resumption of fuel supply for Tarapur is a tangible gain for India as this will ensure that Tarapur's functioning is not affected.

Mrs Gandhi did not go to Washington for aid, either economic or military, but she did try to make her host realize why India wants concessional finance, particularly at this juncture, and how it will ultimately help not only India but its trading partners as well. Of India's trading partners, the biggest is the United States.

TIMES ON MOTIVES BEHIND U.S. OFFER OF ARMS

BK041052 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Jul 82 p 7

[Editorial: "U.S. Arms Offer"]

[Text] The union government has understandably been reticent on the issue of U.S. willingness to sell arms, including the F-16 aircraft, to this country and even to allow coproduction of F-5G's here. India's previous experience of trying to acquire U.S. weapons has been far from happy. The conditions which Washington stipulates in respect of arms sales to countries outside its alliance systems remain unacceptable. And it is only natural that New Delhi should be sensitive to Moscow's susceptibilities. The Soviet Union has been extremely helpful in regard to military supplies since 1962 when it first agreed to sell MiG-21's to this country. Its prices have been highly competitive -- about one-half of the West's for similar equipment. It has extended good credit terms -- loans at a 2.5 percent rate of interest and repayments spread over 12 and now 17 years. By and large it has been willing to deliver whatever weapons system New Delhi has shown interest in. Occasionally there have been problems in regard to the supply of spare parts but these have not been unmanageable.

The Americans are aware of these facts. Indeed, they would have been surprised if India's initial response had been more positive. Why then have they made the present moves? It is not easy to answer this question at this stage because very little information is available.

Take the case of F-5G. Northrop developed it in the expectation of being able to manufacture it in Taiwan in continuation of F-5E. This possibility has now been blocked at least for some time, if not forever, in view of Washington's willingness partly to heed Chinese objections. So Northrop is looking for another possible partner and finds India attractive. But that cannot be good enough reason for the White House to give the go-ahead signal even if its present incumbent wants to help the California-based Northrop.

And what is the reference to the trilateral arrangement whereby Northrop will sell the aircraft coproduced in India to a third country? Is Formosa the third country Northrop has in mind? Surely again, the Americans cannot be urging India to improve its ties with China and at the same time try to involve it in a deal which will gravely complicate its dealings with Beijing. There may be other possible buyers. But who are they and what guarantee can there be that the U.S. administration will not seek to block these sales on political grounds as it did in the case of the Swedish Viggen for this country? So one would need more details regarding the American offer to be able to assess its merits or demerits.

On the face of it, the F-16 offer appears to be a more straight-forward affair. India has been objecting to the delivery of these aircraft to Pakistan on the ground that this will endanger its security, especially in view of the fact that it does not possess and is not likely to possess a comparable fighter-bomber, the French Mirage-2000 it proposes to buy not being an answer to F-16. Washington has refused to accept the Indian view. So it is possible that the U.S. administration has decided to make the offer to India mainly to meet this argument and that in fact it does not expect this country to go in for this plane. But this need not be the whole truth. It is plausible that the U.S. administration feels that India wants this aircraft and it is willing to provide it. Two points may be made in this connection:

First, F-16 is a deadly weapon. The Israelis have destroyed around 85 MiG-21's and MiG-23's against the loss of two F-16's in the recent encounters with Syria. American commentators themselves do not believe that MiG's are so inferior to F-16 and think that Syrian ineptitude is perhaps primarily responsible for the debacle. But there can be little doubt that F-16 is a superior aircraft and its possession will give Pakistan an advantage which India will need to negate.

Secondly, the U.S. administration has convinced itself that India leans towards the Soviet Union primarily because it depends on Moscow for arms. Since Washington is keen to weaken this relationship and thereby increase the Soviet Union's isolation in Asia, it may well be willing to incur Pakistani displeasure. This places India in a fix which the official spokesman's statement that Mrs. Gandhi will not discuss the arms issue with President Reagan cannot resolve.

Indeed, a new situation has arisen and New Delhi shall have to deal with it carefully and with due deliberation. This will be especially so if Mrs Gandhi's visit is successful. An improvement in what the Americans call the atmospherics will accentuate rather than diminish India's dilemma as far as the arms issue is concerned.

LEBANESE POLITICIAN ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

BK030950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] A member of the Lebanese National Movement (Nadal Kamal Khowri) has said that India can play an effective role in ending the Lebanese crisis. He said as a nonaligned country India has an important role, particularly in the United Nations, to solve the problem.

(Khowri) was addressing a news conference in New Delhi at the beginning of his tour of India to organize support for the Lebanese cause. He said the support given by India so far has been highly appreciated and will greatly contribute in consolidating international support for the Palestinian struggle.

SPOKESMAN DENIES AMBASSADOR HAS LEFT BEIRUT

BK301428 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Jul 82

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Indian ambassador in Lebanon has never abandoned his post nor has he left Beirut at any point of time.

Reacting to a few newspaper reports saying that the Indian Chancery in Beirut has been shifted from the west to the eastern part of the city, the spokesman said the ambassador took the decision to be most effective under the circumstances. Both the Lebanese Foreign Office and the Presidential Palace, which is the seat of the chief executive, are in east Beirut. The Indian ambassador in Lebanon has to keep in touch with them. As a result of this decision to function from east Beirut, the Indian ambassador has been able to maintain effective contacts with the Lebanese Foreign Office, Indian nationals residing in Beirut and with New Delhi.

DEPUTY ON PRODUCTION OF FRENCH HELICOPTERS

BK310937 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 82

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been told that government keeps a constant watch over all global developments and suitable modifications are made in our defense projections accordingly. Deputy Defense Minister K.P. Singh Deo told the house that in view of the fast-changing technology, efforts are being made to procure the latest and most suited defense equipment from whatever source it is available. He was replying to a half-hour discussion raised by B.S. Desai, Congress-I, regarding an agreement with a French firm for design and production of armed helicopters at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

INDIAN CP CHIEF DENIES TAKING ORDERS FROM USSR

BK280335 Hong Kong AFP in English 0147 GMT 28 Jul 82

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) -- The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) is its own boss and takes no orders from the Soviet Union or anyone else, says its general secretary, C. Rajeswara Rao.

Mr Rao was apparently referring to the press reports here that Soviet leaders had expressed their displeasure at CPI's association with the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"We do not seek advice of any communist party, not even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), nor are the policies decided on their advice," Mr Rao said yesterday. He was briefing the press on the deliberations of the national council, the highest policy-making body of the party. Whenever he or other CPI leaders met leaders of communist parties from other countries, including the Soviet Union, internal matters were never included in the talks but the views of the Soviets were given serious consideration.

The daily INDIAN EXPRESS had recently reported that during Mr Rao's recent visit to Moscow, senior leaders of the Soviet party had clearly attacked the decision of the CPI leadership to join hands with the BJP even on specific issues.

The Soviet leadership, the paper said quoting sources close to CPI, feels that the party should not adopt a policy of confrontation towards Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and in no case should it join hands with the BJP even on issues where it feels it has to voice opposition to the government.

This runs counter to the line of Mr Rao and the independent Communist Party (Marxist) who do not mind joining hands with the BJP to oppose Mrs Gandhi's government and its authoritarian policies, the paper said.

After the party's experience during Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule, 1975-77, Mr Rao has been pushing the CPI towards an alliance with the CPI-M, which in its turn has favoured a broad-based anti-authoritarian front even if it involves joining hands with the rightwing parties.

The CPI was the only opposition party that supported Mrs Gandhi's policies during the emergency, which made both CPI and the Congress unpopular.

If Mr Rao's line is reversed, the party's moves for unity with CPI-M might suffer a setback and the CPI might again start supporting Mrs Gandhi's Congress-I, observers here said.

The CPI chief today admitted that there was opposition in the national council to the central leadership's stand and the steps taken in relation to developments in Haryana state and the presidential election.

But, he said, the council had overwhelmingly endorsed the stand and steps taken by the leadership.

UPCOMING SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL TALKS VIEWED

BK0504131 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] A 3-day meeting of the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and six other South Asian countries is opening in Islamabad on Saturday [7 August]. It will be inaugurated by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that the conference would consider the recommendations of the five working groups and three study groups that were appointed at the second meeting held in Katmandu last November. The spokesman told the questioner that Pakistan shared the working group on communication and the study group on science and technology. Pakistan's effort has been to make a positive contribution in a manner that would help promote mutual interests of all countries. He said Pakistan would be happy to achieve in the region of South Asia a peaceful, mutually supportive and cooperative relationship. Pakistan was [words indistinct] to this objective.

The spokesman said Indian Foreign Secretary M. Rasgotra will stay back for bilateral talks with Pakistan Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik which will be held in Islamabad on the 11th and 12th of this month. He said the talks will be held on the basis of the understanding reached in New Delhi on a number of elements regarding Pakistan's proposal for the conclusion of an agreement on nonaggression and nonuse of force between Pakistan and India during the discussions between the foreign ministers of the two countries. The two sides will also discuss the proposal for a joint commission.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO PERMIT POLITICAL PARTIES

GF041427 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Politics, Polls and Parties"]

[Text] The chairman of the Federal Council, Khawaja Safdar, has said in an interview published yesterday that an agreement is likely to be reached on non-party elections between the government and political parties. He also named leaders of three defunct political parties who have publicly expressed willingness to participate in such mode of elections. Additionally, the veteran politician, who was a leading opponent of Field Marshal Ayub's dictatorial regime, has supported a "reasonable" constitutional role of the armed forces with a view to avoiding the recurrence of martial law in Pakistan.

Apart from indicating his own political past, the hallmark of which was a consistent commitment to multi-party democracy, Khawaja Safdar's statement is in sharp contrast to the recommendations of the Council of Islamic Ideology which has come out against non-party elections. The council, all of whose members are nominees of the government, was entrusted by President Ziaul Haq to prepare a draft on a political system for Pakistan which would be in conformity with Islamic injunctions.

While its text was never officially made public, it has managed to reach the people via the press and its contents make interesting reading. Apart from its other aspects, two of its key points are particularly relevant to the current discussion. The council has opposed non-party polls, something which government spokesmen have been speaking about as a way out to restart the political process. Another element in the council's report is its view that political parties are sanctioned in Islam. Now these happen to be considered the view of a learned body of scholars of Islam who, after detailed deliberation, have arrived at conclusions regarding a political system for Pakistan which roughly approximate, at least in these two aspects, the Western form of democracy.

Since the present government has been committed to a programme of all-round Islamisation, a contradiction arises when it rejects recommendations on an Islamic political system formulated by its own Council of Islamic Ideology. In fact, if one goes by the pronouncements of its spokesmen, the government seems prepared to embark on a contrary course of action, if it goes ahead with elections minus political parties.

The government would do well to understand that when it checks off all avenues of expression -- media, public meetings, political parties, politicians, even the lawyers -- then the results can only be negative both for its own interests and those of the country. Let is not be selective in its generosity towards its own people. If the government wants the people to participate in large numbers in celebrations marking our independence day, it must also provide them the fruits of freedom by allowing the people to participate in running the affairs of their own country.

SOMALIA REQUESTS MORAL, DIPLOMATIC, MATERIAL AID

GF041350 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jul 82 p 1

[By Azhar Mas'ud]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jul 27 -- Somalia has made a request to Pakistan for moral, diplomatic and material aid and assistance to counter Ethiopian invasion, THE MUSLIM learnt from reliable sources here yesterday.

The Somalian request came in a letter addressed to President Ziaul Haq by President Siad Barre. It is further learnt that the Government of Pakistan, while expressing full support to Somalia, has, however, expressed its inability to supply military aid and assistance.

It may be added here that Pakistan's position in the Somalia-Ethiopian conflict was justified by the former Foreign Minister Agha Shahi as a case of Pakistan repaying a "moral debt" to a country which had supported Pakistan during its hour of crisis.

BRIEFS

AID FOR ZIMBABWE POLICE -- Islamabad, Jul 28 -- Pakistan will assist the Zimbabwe Government in the re-organisation of its police force, reliable sources told PPI here today. Pakistan's assistance in this regard is in pursuance of a protocol signed with that government in 1980. Pakistani police experts, it is learnt, will visit Zimbabwe to prepare a comprehensive report about the re-organization of Zimbabwe police force. [Excerpt] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Jul 82 p 7 GF]

FERTILIZER TO IRAN -- Pakistan is to deliver 50,000 metric tons of chemical fertilizers to Iran by land route through Baluchistan. Earlier, it was announced that Pakistan would also export 50,000 tons of wheat to Iran. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jul 82 BK]

TRADE ACCORD WITH NEPAL -- Pakistan and Nepal signed in Islamabad on 28 July an agreement to develop bilateral trade and promote economic relations. Under the agreement, both countries will accord the most favored nation treatment to each other in matters of customs duties and formalities, taxes, fees and other charges on export and import of goods between the two countries. They will also explore possibilities of operating chartered cargo flights and extend to each other all possible facilities for operation of such flights. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jul 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

CURFEW LIFTED, EMERGENCY STILL IN FORCE

BK041306 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] The Defense Ministry has announced that the curfew in the Galle municipal area has been lifted. The emergency regulations, however, are still in force. The press censorship continues.

TAMIL NADU CHAIRMAN CRITICIZED, ON 'VENDETTA'

BK020920 Colombo SUN in English 27 Jul 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Nedumaran's Lament"]

[Text] Hot on the heels of the Tamil Eelam [Separate State for the Tamil People] convention in New York that ended in a veritable damp squib with a load of polemics, its chairman Tamil Nadu's Kamaraj Congress P. Nedumaran seems to have returned to Madras with a new vendetta against Sri Lanka.

This militant supporter of a separate state in Lanka has now called on the union government of Tamil Nadu to intervene on behalf of the minority Tamils. He has even suggested that the centre step in on their behalf and establish contact through the respective foreign ministers.

This man Nedumaran is obviously a dreamer. He probably thinks that Lanka is a part of India. He may sound rather naive in a strict geographic sense, but he certainly could cause political complications to the Lankan authorities through the unbridled interference that is apparently up his sleeve.

We learn that the New York convention under his chairmanship spelt out a fifteen point programme -- with a primary objective of immediate movement of Tamils from the south to the north and east of Lanka.

Nobody can find fault with a set of like-minded people holding deliberations on common affairs that interest them. But the passage of resolutions which may be construed as interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state is most condemnable.

What Nedumaran and his colleagues did in calling for the setting up of the so-called 'government of Tamil Eelam' in Lanka is a blatant intereference in the sovereignty of this country.

To make matters worse this champion of political chicanery has now urged his Tamil Nadu union government to commit a far worse faux pas. But most people on this side of the Palk Straits are hopeful that saner counsel would prevail and avoid an embarrassing fait accompli.

Yet, the government should not take these undiplomatic activities and vituperative utterances from militant aliens lightly. These agent provocateurs are indeed fanning ethnic unrest in this country. And whoever has any links with these people should be ashamed of themselves.

Pragmatic political leaders in the south and the north Lanka have already recognised the via media of settling the thorny ethnic problems. They have chosen the most practical way -- through dialogue or the 'amity talks.' Even though the pace of progress is slow, it is certainly a safer and surer method of achieving a lasting solution.

The speedy 'solutions' worked out by aliens of Nedumaran's ilk could be akin to the proverbial bull in a China shop.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI INTERVIEWED ON WAR PLANS

LD042208 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4 (IRNA) -- "We will get reparations, we will return the Iraqi refugees, we will support the Iraqi people, we will not overlook the crimes of a person who has brought all this damage to the world of Islam and our ideological commitment makes it incumbent on us to punish the aggressor, and our road towards Al-Quds must be paved," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the end of a meeting of the Supreme Defence Council here today. The Supreme Defence Council met twice last night headed by President Khamene'i to discuss the outcome of the Ramadan Operations and it made a number of decisions concerning future moves in the fronts.

Imam Khomeyni's representative at the SDC [Supreme Defense Council] told reporters that the Islamic Republic wanted to put it through Saddam Husayn and his supporters that it would not remain behind the borders. [sentence as received] He added that Iran would not give in to the "hues and cries", calling on it not to enter the Iraqi territory and about those who are acting as friends and advising Iran not to take this step. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran wanted to show them that "our words are serious".

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that the Ramadan offensive which began on July 13 was a warning against Iraq and its supporters and he added that if Iraq would come to its senses it would be good, "otherwise we will implement the rest of the plans." Concerning Iraq's occupation of still a number of strategic positions in the west of the country, he said Iran could not afford to be heedless about any part of its territory but that Khuzestan Province was a priority.

On the future of the upcoming meeting of the non-aligned countries due to be held in Baghdad next September he said that the reputation and the credibility of the Non-aligned Movement would be damaged if things went ahead as planned. "What sort of a non-aligned conference would this be if Iran, which is truly non-aligned, and Syria, Libya, North Korea and many other reputable countries do not participate in it", questioned Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also [words indistinct] a number of the principal members of the non-aligned had expressed doubts whether Baghdad would be a proper and [word indistinct] place for the conference. Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani further commented that contacts had been made with other member countries on this issue and he questioned if the meeting would take place as planned.

Concerning a recent car bomb explosion near one of Iraq's government buildings, he said that this action taken by the Iraqi mujahidin was "very, very appropriate" adding that the Islamic Republic expected the mujahidin to have full control of their operations as they had already shown.

On the misleading imperialist propaganda accusing the Islamic Republic of threatening the regional countries and previous plans by the U.S. and regional countries for a joint military maneuver, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that such propaganda had been ineffective in the wake of an assurance by Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian officials that the Islamic Republic was maintaining regional security and that small states should not fear it. He added that by dispatching delegations to these countries Iran had assured them that it had no intent of causing them trouble. He said a joint maneuver of the United States and the countries of the region had been aborted due to the vigilance of the governments and their people, but noted also that even though it had been effected, it would have been to their own detriment since it would only expose their true faces.

In conclusion Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he could not give an exact date for the end of the war, but that it would not take long. He noted also that it could end much sooner if the Islamic forces opened their artillery on Iraqi cities, made thousands homeless, or occupied Basra, Khanaqin and Al-Amarah. He said further that such a move would not be in the interests of Iran and that it would try to end the conflict by limiting its military operations to the regions where the Iraqi civilians would suffer the least.

Today's meeting of the Supreme Defence Council was headed by President Khamene'i and attended also by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Musavi, Chief of Joint Staff General Zahirnezhad, Defence Minister Salimi, Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Mohsen Reza'i, Deputy Chief of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] Shamkhani, Ground Force Commander Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, Deputy Commander of Ground Force Colonel Jamali and Foreign Minister Velayati.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES GUARDS CORPS, COURT CHIEFS

LD041130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Brother Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, met this morning with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, and presented a report about the conditions on the battlefronts and future programs.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr Mohammadi Gilani, head of the Islamic Revolution Court of the capital and Friday imam of Esfahan, met separately today with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During this meeting Mr Mohammadi Gilani presented a report about the Islamic Revolution Court of the capital to the imam of the community.

KHOMEYNI, OFFICIALS DISCUSS INFORMATION POLICY

GF040801 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, received 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic, yesterday morning. The president presented a report to his eminence on recent developments in the country.

Imam Khomeyni also received Jannati, Velayati, Mohammad Khatami, Mohammad Hashemi, Ashraf Zadeh and [name indistinct], members of the council of external information coordination and guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A report was submitted to the leader of the revolution on external information policy.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,006

LD041800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,006 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In the last 24 hours, fire continued to be exchanged on the country's western fronts and was more intense in the Meymak region. In all the western operational sectors, our forces maintained their superior firepower, destroyed some emplacements of enemy mortars and tanks, and inflicted some losses and damage on the aggressors. Our artillery units' fire set on fire and destroyed a border post of the Saddamist forces with the troops stationed in it. The Islamic combatant heroes' fire also destroyed one vehicle with its servicemen, one mortar and one 106-mm gun of the enemy.

Exchanges of fire continued in the Ilam and Qasr-e Shirin regions.

In the Marivan region, our forces set on fire one enemy vehicle and some ammunition. Our powerful combatants continue defusing the minefields in the country's western operational sectors, and in repairing the roads they are busy improving the situation. [sentence as heard]

In the Ramadan Operation sector, the Islamic forces perform their tasks with full superiority, disrupt enemy activities and halt their movements by deploying reconnaissance and patrol groups and antitank units and by firing on the Saddamist forces' positions.

In the last 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued on the banks of the Arvand Rud. Our combatants opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, preventing their vehicles from moving and inflicting some damage on the Iraqi forces.

Yesterday the enemy's heavy-weapon fire destroyed three houses in Abadan and set several places on fire.

The air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran repulsed enemy air raids on border cities and in the country's western and southern operational sectors in the last 24 hours and the aggressive aircraft were forced to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

CLANDESTINE REPORTS KURDISH SUCCESSES IN WEST

JN041721 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1330 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Reports from Kamiran say that at midnight on 31 July 1982, a regime force estimated at 1,600 men mounted a bestial attack against peshmerga positions. This force was supported by violent artillery fire and seven helicopters. The shelling lasted until the afternoon of 1 August. However, the hero peshmerga clashed with the enemy and inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment. Enemy casualties are not yet known. Luckily, the peshmerga suffered no casualties in this savage attack.

AFGHAN REBELS ATTACK, KILL SOVIET SOLDIERS

LD0J0320 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 2 Aug 82

[Text] Zahedan, Aug 2, IRNA -- The Afghan Muslim mujahidin last week attacked one column of Soviet forces enroute to Qandahar from Herat Province, setting ablaze 23 gasoline tankers and 8 armoured tanks and killing a number of Soviet soldiers.

During this operation, some 25 Afghan Muslim mujahidin were martyred.

Meanwhile, some 25 Soviet solders were also killed, 3 Soviet tanks were set ablaze and 25 Kalashnikov guns were seized yesterday by the Afghan Muslim mujahidin during a clash with Soviet forces in a district of Herat Province.

According to IRNA, quoting an Afghan office in Zahedan, southern Iran, two more armoured tanks belonging to the Soviet forces were destroyed and many Soviet soldiers killed, in a confrontation between the Afghan Muslim mujahidin and the joint governmental and Soviet forces in Feyzabad, a district of Javin governorship, Farah Province, compelling them to retreat.